

~~7. (Amended) A printing control method according to claim 6, wherein a paper~~

outlet is not assigned in a plurality of operating relationships.

8. (Amended) A printing control method according to claim 6, wherein a paper feed inlet and a paper discharge outlet are assigned by a panel operation.

9. (Amended) A printing control method according to claim 6, wherein the states of the operating relationships are displayed in a list.

Please ADD new claims 21-24.

--21. A printing control method in an apparatus which has feed inlets and discharge outlets, and prints in accordance with a print request from a plurality of devices, comprising:

establishing operating relationships independently with the respective devices;

and

assigning a feed inlet and a discharge outlet for each operating relationship.

22. A control method according to claim 21, wherein said assigning comprises specifying a discharge outlet for each operating relationship, so that the same discharge outlet is not assigned in a plurality of operating relationships.

23. A control method according to claim 21, wherein said establishing comprises
assigning a feed inlet and a discharge outlet by a panel operation.

24. A control method according to claim 21, further comprising displaying the states
of the operating relationships in a list.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to improve the form of the specification and claims as originally-filed and to add new claims 21-24.

Also filed concurrently herewith is a Letter to the Examiner Requesting Approval of Changes to the Drawings. The identical Letter was filed and approved in the parent and grand parent applications.

An Information Disclosure Statement is also being filed to identify the prior art cited in the parent and grandparent applications.

It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in the above-referenced application.